

C O P Y

Copy 2 of 4.

13,060

September 16, 1943

POUCH LETTER TO WASHINGTON NO. 24

TO: Carib

FROM: Argus

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A cable was received by me from Ambassador Hayes yesterday asking whether the bearer cashier checks had been collected in Lisbon. We were able to inform him that the checks had been cashed by an inspector of the Spanish Instituto de Cambios y Monedas on September 10. When ascertaining this fact from the bank in Lisbon we were informed that the Spanish inspector had inquired whether any license had been obtained to export the escudo cashier checks. Insofar as we are able to find out there is no local law or regulation prohibiting the export of escudos from Portugal. The cashier checks were acquired here without divulging any intention of sending them out of the country so that matter would not have arisen even were there some secret understanding between the Spanish Instituto and the Portuguese banks restricting, from the Portuguese point of view, export of escudos to Spain.

(b)(1)
(b)(3) One of the many unfortunate aspects of the discovery or this exchange transaction by the Spanish police is that the Spanish inspector either informed or ascertained from the bank from which the cashier checks were obtained that the money for the purchase of the checks came from

(b)(1)
S
(b)(3)
[wish to proceed to Spain at some future time with the present government in power there, he would find his visa refused because of his account having been used for the purchase of the checks which figured in a Spanish exchange violation.

I do not know whether this may implicate [(b)(1)
S
(b)(3)
but I hope we can presume for the time being that it will not do so. Of course, should the case come to trial in Madrid and [would probably be revealed.

/s/ Argus

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